

## Message Text

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62

ORIGIN NODS-00

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R 152134Z MAY 75 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

S E C R E T STATE 113711

NODIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT CAIRO 4646 SENT ACTION SECSTATE DTD 9 MAY 75

QUOTE:

S E C R E T CAIRO 4646

NODIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR US EG

SUBJECT: SUEZ CANAL OPERNING CEREMONIES

REF: STATE 106291

1. AT FAHMY'S LUNCH FOR VISITING DUTCH FONMIN YESTERDAY,  
I TOLD HIM WE WERE WILLING IN PRINCIPLE ACCEDE TO  
EGYPTIAN REQUEST TO SEND WAR SHIPS TO PARTICIPATE  
IN THE INAUGURAL CEREMONY FOR THE SUEZ CANAL REOPENING  
ON JUNE 5. I INDICATED THAT OUR AGREEMENT IS SUBJECT TO  
WORKING OUT NECESSARY LOGISTICAL ARRANGEMENTS ON BOTH  
SIDES AND THAT DECISION WAS MADE BECAUSE OF THE IMPORTANCE

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PRESIDENT SADAT ATTACHES TO US PARTICIPATION. WE DO SO AS IN INDICATION OF THE WARM RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN US AND EGYPT. FAHMY WAS APPRECIATIVE AND SAID HE WOULD INFORM SCA CHAIRMAN MAEHOUR, WHO WOULD WORK WITH US IN MAKING THE NECESSARY LOGISTICAL ARRANGEMENT. HE REAFFIRMED THAT GOE DOES NOT WANT THE FOREIGN NAVAL VESSELS WHICH PARTICIPATED IN THE SUEZ CANAL CLEARANCE TO BE IN THE PROCESSION, SINCE THE SOVIETS WOULD THEN INSIST UPON ALSO BEING INVITED TO SEND A WAR SHIP FOR THE CEREMONY.

2. THIS MORNING FAHMY TELEPHONE INDICATING GOE HAS HAD SOME CHANGE OF HEART. HE CLAIMED TO HAVE TALKED WITH THE PRESIDENT A SHORT TIME EARLIER AND TOLD HIM ABOUT OUR RESPONSE TO THE LATTER'S REQUEST. THE PRESIDENT, ACCORDING TO FAHMY, NOW WANTS THE "BIG" AMERICANSHIP TO PARTICIPATE AT THE END OF THE INAUGURAL CONVOY. THE TWO DESTROYERS SHOULD NOT PARTICIPATE THAT DAY, BUT MIGHT IF WE WISH GO THROUGH THE CANAL A DAY OR TWO LATER. UPON REFLECTION THE PRESIDENT HAS CONCLUDED THAT THREE USWAR SHIPS IN THE INAUGURAL PROCESSION MIGHT BE TOO MUCH OF A SHOW.

3. I TOLD FAHMY I WOULD REPORT THIS CHANGE IN THE EGYPTIAN VIEW.

I REMINDED HIM THAT WE HAD AGREED TO DEPLOY THE THREE SHIPS SOLELY BECAUSE OF THE EGYPTIAN REQUEST. I DID NOT KNOW SHIPS' SCHEDULES, BUT THERE IS POSSIBILITY THEY WOULD TRANSIT THE CANAL AND RETURN IMMEDIATELY AFTERWARDS TO THEIR MEDITERRANEAN STATIONS. THIS THOUGHT HAD NOT OCCURRED TO HIM. IF THE TWO DESTROYERS ARE NOW NOT WANTED IN THE PROCESSION, I WONDERED IF THERE IS ANY POINT IN SENDING THEM TO PORT SAID. IT WAS, OF COURSE, POSSIBLE THAT THE USN MIGHT WANT TO SEND TWO DESTROYERS A DAY OR TWO LATER FOR DEPLOYMENT ELSEWHERE, BUT I HAD NO SPECIFIC INFORMATION ON THIS AT THE PRESENT TIME.

4. I ALSO TOLD FAHMY THAT WE ARE ASKING FOR PASSAGE OF THE DESTROYERS TRIPPE AND HEWES FROM SOUTH TO NORTH ON JUNE 12 A WEEK AFTER THE OPENING CEREMONY.

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5. FAHMY ASKED THAT I LET HIM KNOW SOONEST WHETHER WE WILL WANT THE TWO DESTROYERS TO TRANSIT FROM PORT SAID TO SUEZ A DAY OR TWO AFTER THE OPENING CEREMONY. IF NOT, THIS IS ALSO AGREEABLE TO HIM. HE IS HOLDING UP INFORMING MASHOUR OF ARRANGEMENT FOR OUR NAVAL PARTICIPATION IN CEREMONY UNTIL HE HAS A REPLY.

6. RECOMMEND I BE AUTHORIZED TO CONFIRM "BIG" SHIP  
WITH THREE-STAR ADMIRAL WILL PARTICIPATE AND THAT DECISION  
RE PASSAGE SOUTHBOUND DESTROYERS WILL DEPEND UPON USN'S  
OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS. ONCE THESE ARE DETERMINED  
WE WILL ADVISE GOE THROUGH NORMAL SCA CHANNELS. WE  
WOULD CONSIDER ANY TRANSITS AFTER INAUGURAL CEREMONY

AS ROUTINE.

EILTS

UNQUOTE KISSINGER

SECRET

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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